

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-9, 12-20, 23-29, 32 and 34 are pending.

Claims 1-2, 5-9, 12-20, 23-29, 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oe (US Publication No. 2006/0041614) and further in view of Mitsuoka (US publication no. 2003/0154281).

The claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is requested. No new matter is believed to have been added.

The independent claims are 1, 8, 15, 19, 24, 28, and 34.

As to the recitation in claims 1, 8, 15, 19, 24, and 28 of "a single usage way," "an integrated usage way," "a multiple usage way," "a divided usage way," the Office Action Response to Arguments page 7, lines 6-9 relies upon Oe page 3, paragraph 0050, and provides 'One ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention knows that Oe in the above paragraph stored the data in a multiple way since the claim language stated, 'Including one or more of a single usage way an integrated, a multiple usage way' therefore having to select one of the usage way, therefore having to select one of the usage way.'

Claim 1 is amended to require "managing collectively, in said management server, the respective storage areas of the storage apparatuses of the respective servers thus registered ***using four different storage area usage ways available at a same time***, including ~~one or more of a single usage way, an integrated usage way, a multiplicate usage way and/or~~***and a divided usage way.***"

A prima facie case of obviousness based upon Oe and Mitsuoka cannot be established, because nothing has been cited or found that Oe and/or Mitsuoka discloses, expressly or implicitly, to one skilled in the art to combine Oe's memory management part 42, which is in the cache apparatus 4 and manages the cache, or Oe's control apparatus 2 (paragraph 50) managing as to which data is stored in which location in the storage apparatus 3 and in the cache apparatus 4, with Mitsuoka's use of different protocols for a storage system that sends/receives data to/from a plurality of external devices, and then further modify Oe or Mitsuoka to provide the language of amended claim 1, namely "managing collectively ... ***using four different storage area usage ways available at a same time***, including ~~one or more of a single usage way, an integrated usage way, a multiplicate usage way and/or~~***and a divided***

usage way.” In other words, the language of the claims expressly provides “***using four different storage area usage ways available at a same time***” and the language of the claims further recites the available ways (methods/modes or how) of using a storage, namely “***a single usage way, an integrated usage way, a multiply usage way and/or a divided usage way.***” Oe’s cache manager 42 and control apparatus 2 discussions are silent on making available four different storage area use ways as claimed. A benefit of the embodiments is to manage the storage areas of the servers based upon different storage use ways available at a same time.

Further, it is readily apparent that Mitsuoka does not expressly or implicitly disclose this feature to cure the deficiencies of Oe, since Mitsuoka Abstract and paragraph 14 discuss a storage system accepting send/receive accesses according to different protocols from a plurality of external devices, which send/receive of data according to different protocols differs from the claim language “***different storage area usage way,***” namely “***using four different storage area usage ways available at a same time.***” In other words, ***a storage area usage way*** differs expressly or implicitly from a data send/receive protocol, and in addition, the language of claim 1 expressly defines a storage area usage way as “***a single usage way, an integrated usage way, a multiply usage way and/or a divided usage way.***” Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is requested.

Independent claims 8, 15, 19, 24, 28 are amended to require limitations similar to the discussed limitations of amended claim 1.

The remaining dependent claims inherit the patentable recitations of their respective base claims, and therefore, patentably distinguish over the cited art for the reasons discussed above in addition to the additional features recited therein.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 34

Further, independent claim 34 is allowable by reciting “***registering ... a plurality of storage area usage ways, including four storage area usage ways of a single usage way, an integrated usage way, a multiply usage way and a divided usage way, available at a same time*** and corresponding to storage areas of storage devices of servers; and ***collectively managing, at the management server, the storage areas*** of the storage devices for a server ***according to a registered storage usage way,***” because Oe’s cache manager 42 or control apparatus 2 and Mitsuoka do not discuss expressly or implicitly registering “plurality of storage

area usage ways” for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. A benefit is registering available ways of, or an available mode of, a storage area useable by a server, and managing the storage areas based upon the registered storage usage ways. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 34 and allowance of claim 34 is requested.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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